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**Limnologia. Studio Scientifico dei Laghi. By Dr. G. P. Magrini.**

xv and 242 pp., 53 Figures, Map, and 12 Appendices. Ulrico Hoepli, 1907. (Price, L. 3.)

One of the excellent scientific handbooks for which the house of Hoepli is known. The Italians have shared prominently in the work of advancing limnology, or the scientific study of lakes, to its present position, and this volume is an adequate guide to the methods of pursuing the study. The instruments used and how to use them are described, and the work deals with the details of investigating the genesis, physical and chemical nature, movements, biology, and other conditions and phenomena of lakes.

**La Questione Congolese. By Aristide Cornoldi.** 63 pp., Appendices and Map. Milan, 1907.

This monograph has been published under the auspices of the *Società Italiana di Esplorazioni Geografiche e Commerciali* of Milan and of the *Istituto Coloniale Italiano*. It is an excellent and impartial study of the whole Congo question, including the history of the organization and development of the State, the nature of its government, its relations with the natives, the report of the Committee of Investigation in 1906, the reforms proposed, the debates in the British and Belgian parliaments, and the probable future of the country.

**A Scientific Geography. Book V. Africa. By Ellis W. Heaton.**

109 pp., 38 Maps and Diagrams, and Glossary of Geological Terms. Ralph, Holland & Co., London, 1907. (Price, 1s. 3d.)

The excellent plan on which the author is writing this series of geographies has been outlined in the BULLETIN (p. 764, 1907). Some statements and omissions in the present volume should be corrected in the next edition. Lake Ngami, mentioned as one of the chief salt lakes in Africa, has been in a state of complete desiccation for years. The Kong mountains (p. 23) do not exist. Burton and Speke did not penetrate the lake plateau southward by way of the Nile, but westward by way of Zanzibar (p. 33). Liberia was founded before, not after, the abolition of slavery in the United States (p. 34). The Congo does not afford 2,000 miles of navigable waters from Leopoldville to Nyangwe, because navigation is interrupted by rapids for 75 miles between Stanleyville and Ponthierville and for over 100 miles between Kundu and Nyangwe.

**A Modern Slavery. By Henry W. Nevins.** x, 216. Harper & Bros., London and New York, 1906.

Cocoa, like other forms of drink, has its slaves. They are found chiefly in São Thomé and Príncipe, two small Portuguese islands which lie in the Gulf of Guinea, close to the equator, and about a hundred and fifty miles from the west coast of Africa. The islands are extremely beautiful, with dense wooded slopes rising to a height of five and even seven thousand feet within a few miles of the sea. Rain falls copiously, and the volcanic soil is very rich. "The islands," to quote Nevins, "possess exactly the kind of climate that kills men and makes the cocoa-tree flourish." Great profit can be realized from plantations, provided the necessary labour can be procured, but labourers will not go to the islands voluntarily. Therefore the Portuguese practise slavery, and bring negroes from the

interior of Angola, or Portuguese West Africa, just as the old slave-traders brought them to America a century or two ago. The system is not called slavery, but goes by the euphemistic title of "contract labour." It is carefully cloaked under the form of a five-years' voluntary contract between the negro, to whom wages are paid at the nominal rate of \$2.40 per month, and the planter, who provides food, clothing and shelter. The wages are paid regularly, but the amount is only about half that stipulated in the contract, and can be spent only at the plantation store. In spite of the appearance of legality, the slavery is absolute. Negroes are bought at the rate of 125 or 150 dollars a head, boys and full-grown girls being the most valuable. They are driven to work with whips, are hunted with dogs and guns when they run away, and are beaten to death when caught. The work in the cocoa plantations is so severe and the life so hopeless that from 14 to 20 per cent. of the twenty or thirty thousand slaves on the islands die every year, and the death rate is ten times as high as in England.

In order to investigate the system of slavery in Portuguese Africa Mr. Nevins visited the islands in 1905, at the suggestion of the Editor of *Harper's Monthly*. He also visited the mainland where the negroes, variously estimated at from four to twelve millions, live in constant fear of being stolen and sold as slaves to the white man. On a journey of some five hundred miles by ox-cart into the interior he crossed the three physiographic zones which characterize southern Africa. He describes vividly the low, unhealthy coast belt, not so rainy as other parts, but full of river swamps, hot, steaming, deadly. Then comes the mountain zone, which is really the dissected edge of the central plateau—a beautiful forested region with rugged hills and steep valleys where the great slave-road to Bihe and the far interior climbs "ladders of rock." East of the mountains the great plateau stretches away for uncounted miles as a forested region of low relief, with scenery suggesting that of England. Its elevation of 5,000 feet causes the nights to be cool, though the days are hot. Eastward the rainfall decreases, and beyond Bihe there is the so-called "Hungry Country." It is a region of rolling hills composed of pure white sand half covered with a sparse growth of trees. The succulent stems of the grasses are bitter instead of sweet, and every living thing suffers for lack of salt. Even the butterflies and bees gather in huge swarms where salt is spilled, although they pay little attention to sugar or sweets. Apparently, the Hungry Country was once a sandy desert during some epoch of drier climate, but now is moist enough to support a poor sort of vegetation.

Most of the people of Angola live on the plateau, but, as Nevins says, "where the road runs, the natives will not stay. Exposed continually to the greed, the violence, and the lust of white men and their slaves, they cannot live in peace. . . . [so where] a road or fort or any other sign of the white man's presence appears, the natives quit their villages one by one and steal away to build new homes beyond the reach of the common enemy." Yet the natives are friendly and peaceable, as appears from their cordial relations with the missionaries, whom, alone among Europeans, they know to be honest. "In modern Africa an honest man has only the whites to fear." The natives, like most Africans, practice domestic slavery—half the people being slaves—but it is mild compared to the horrors of the plantation slavery of the Portuguese on the mainland and still more on the islands. Now, as in the days of Livingstone, rum, polygamy and slavery are the great curses of Africa. After reading Nevins's most interesting book one cannot doubt that slavery is still a tremendous problem, and that its origin and continuance are due to the fact that, for the present, peculiar physi-

ography conditions have appealed to the selfishness of the Portuguese so strongly as to overcome all scruples. The physiographic environment is such that on the one hand agriculture is extremely profitable, while on the other the natives are disinclined to work, and people of other races cannot usually live long. Hence the Portuguese have been led to compel the natives to work as slaves. E. H.

**Das deutsche Dorf. R. Mielke.** 132 pp., mit 51 Abbildungen im Text.  
B. G. Teubner, Leipzig, 1907.

This little volume on the German Village is number 192 of a series which is semi-scientific in character, but is calculated to be of interest to the general public. The author found his task one beset with some difficulties, since those who before him had made the German Village a field for special research were, as he says, students of economics or of architecture. Being a peasant born and having a long acquaintance with village life, is in part the author's claim to fitness for his undertaking, and he has honoured his peasant ancestry in writing so interesting a volume.

We expect the German Villager to have a love for his local environment; and that traveller from other lands who, leaving the beaten track of the mere sight-seer that he may make an acquaintance with unspoiled country and village life, does not have his anticipations of finding things interesting realized, is the traveller with a disposition not to be envied.

In so far as space permits, the author has undertaken to combine the geographical, the historical, the political, and the cultural elements, which have entered into the making of the German Village, in due proportions. In his first few pages we have a consideration of origins, not omitting the information to be found in Tacitus and other writers of the day of early Teutonic migrations and settlements. The belief is expressed that the village of the early day was by no means so compactly built as is now common in most parts of the Empire. The individual units of the village community, which community in itself was long a political unit, were the single and sometimes widely separated settlements, like many of those settlements yet to be found in parts of northwest Germany. How time and circumstances, including the physical environment of the various districts in which the villages are located, including also political and economic changes which have taken place in the years as they have come and gone; how all these have wrought as factors in compacting the village or in determining its present day character and general appearance, are points which are made prominent throughout the work.

Noting the differences in origin, differences in appearance architecturally, differences in territorial extent, including a reference to the fact that villages often have within their bounds a very considerable amount of tillable and forest land, the author comes to a consideration of classification. In this classification we find those named which are made up first, of isolated farms or homes (*Einzelhöfe*); second, those compactly built (*Haufendörfer*); third, hamlets (*Weiler*); fourth, villages which stretch along the public highway, which highway constitutes the one village street (*Strassendörfer*). Keeping prominent this classification, the author proceeds to a consideration of the villages in the several regions of Germany. A section of the book is devoted especially to a consideration of the culture of the villages, covering very briefly that which is meant by the German word "Kultur." Referring to the "Village at the close of the nineteenth century"